

The painter as a fighter

Nov 26 - 80
WLT

Peel County
Biog. Bk.

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"Trees have become very important to me. I believe they are growing and so am I," says Constance Burns Crossley, glancing over one of her more forceful paintings entitled 'Growing, like an Oak'.

The **NOT FOR CIRCULATION** painting represents 14 difficult months when Ms. Crossley was recovering from a four-year bout with cancer. The cancer rendered her so weak at times she could not lift clay to her potter's wheel or concentrate on painting.

The painting 'Growing, like an Oak' is among 40 works on exhibit at Oxbow Studio, 3523 Mississauga Rd. Scenes of old mills some of which are still standing on the Credit River, dominate the exhibition which continues until Dec. 5.

Oxbow Studio was built 22 years ago by the Crossleys and serves as a gallery studio and living quarters. The floors and arched doorways were built from local creek stone and the walls are constructed from the wood of eight demolished barns in the Erindale area. The door to the first-floor den is dated 1826 and Ms. Crossley says it has been appraised by local experts as the front door of the first Streetsville residents — the Glendinning family.

Building a house seems easy compared to re-entering the art world after a four-year absence, said Ms. Crossley.

"Painting is one of the easier aspects," says Ms. Crossley. "It's selling that takes the time and energy. Re-entry into art is tough emotionally but I had to paint. I'm a painter. Let someone else call me an artist. I'm very proud of this exhibit because I've done it all myself."

Anyone interested in viewing the exhibit should call 628-9188 for an appointment.



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Crossley: she's a painter, not an artist